

Fighting the Boll Weevil.

Ask a Texas planter what is his greatest problem to-day and he will say, "The boll weevil." A Texas merchant will make the same reply. Five hundred delegates are now in session in Dallas to consider this assassin. Before winter is over we shall hear of him in Congress. If his advance is not checked, every American will feel him in his pocket-book. A beetle with a huge proboscis, he came originally from Mexico. We heard nothing of him on this side till the extension of cotton-growing in the southern counties of Texas made a bridge for him to cross the Rio Grande, and he was first noticed in Bee County, Texas, in 1894. The Agricultural Department experts proposed to the Texas Legislature to stop growing cotton along the river for two years and starve the assassin out. "Who is going to pay planters for this sacrifice?" asked the legislators.

Insecticide does no good. Going over the field with revolving brushes that sweep off the affected plants is too costly. The hope that a certain "green bug," which was the natural enemy of the weevil had been found was soon dashed. The damage to the crop is \$20,000,000 a year in Texas. Last year, a large number of representative cotton men, with Government experts and entomologists to advise, met in Dallas to begin a systematic fight against the enemy. At their behest, the State Government offered \$50,000 to any one who would find a remedy for the evil. Everybody thought that surely now that the matter had been taken up seriously results would soon follow. Thousands of methods have been exploited without anybody having a shadow of a claim to the reward.

Despite the efforts of the experts, there is no abatement to the ravages this year. The present convention consists of men representing the cotton interests not only of Texas, but of all parts of the South and even the North. Texas to-day would doubtless give ten million dollars as quickly as it would have given fifty thousand a year for a remedy. The boll weevil is principally responsible for this year's shortage in the crop. He must go or the whole world will have to pay more for its cotton goods.—Collier's Weekly.

Implement Dealers Should Provide for Repairs.

Since labor has become scarce on the farm, farmers have been buying improved farm implements and machinery. In order to make up for the lack of labor, but it appears that we cannot succeed. We may buy a disk harrow and use it a few years until it needs repairs and when we go to the market for repairs we find that the kind of harrow we bought has gone out of the market, so we can get no repairs and we find it is the same with all machinery that the farmer buys except a certain binder. Now we have got to the opinion that this is done in order to force us to buy continually, which we cannot afford to do.

It seems that those who do not discontinue the manufacture make such changes as to render what the farmer has on hand useless. Now, I think there ought to be a law to force whoever sells machinery in this State to put repairs where the people can get them for a certain period of years and then be required to notify all who have the machinery that they are going to discontinue the manufacture, or make a change so as to allow the people to lay in a supply of repairs. I hope you will give this subject some attention, as it is a serious question for the farmer.—R. H. W. Barker, in Charlotte Observer.

Progress of International Arbitration.

For years the Lake Mohonk Conferences on International Arbitration have brought together a distinguished group of statesmen, publicists, lawyers, editors, clergymen and business men. The proceedings of these meetings have proved a veritable store-house of information and inspiration, and those of the Ninth Annual Conference just published are no exception to the rule.

The opening address of former Secretary of State, John W. Foster, is an admirable review of the past year's development. Coming as it does from an accomplished diplomat and a trained man of affairs, its hopeful tone as to the future affords substantial grounds for encouragement. Dr. Trueblood's review goes more into detail, and is equally hopeful and encouraging. Indeed, until one reads and ponders over addresses like these he is unprepared to appreciate the remarkable advances of the past five years in the cause of international arbitration. Many things which were regarded by the earlier conferences as ideals and to be realized only in the far distant future have actually been brought to pass. The present proceedings tell a part of this story which reads almost like romance.

Asafetida.

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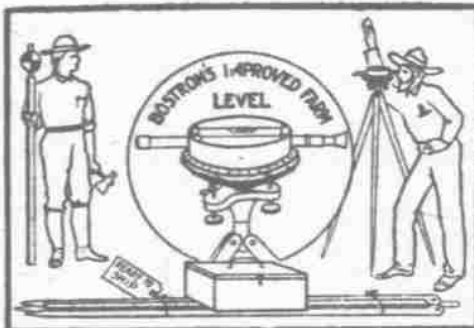
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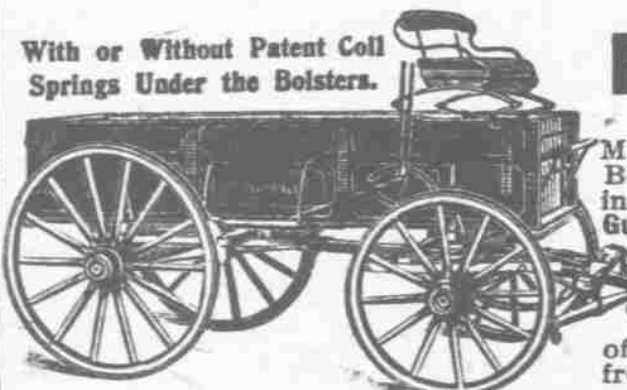
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